

Patterns of Providence

Isaiah 28:1-20; Hebrews 1:1-14 / Psalm 145:1-21

I. The Distinctive Feature of Man Is the Image of God

- A. When God speaks of making man in His image, people ought not to remake God in man's image - God is a spirit. God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth. (John 4:24)
- B. Since the New Testament restoration of God's image in people begins with knowledge, it is obvious that Knowledge is a key aspect of God's image. And have put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him: (Colossians 3:10)
- C. Similarly Righteousness and Holiness must be part of the original design for people. And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness. (Ephesians 4:24)
- D. Just as echos of knowledge, righteousness, and holiness remain, remnants of human Dominion remain. And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth. So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them. (Genesis 1:26-27)

II. The Lost Image Can Be Restored

- A. The gospel message is about the ruin and restoration of the image of God in humanity. Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned: (Romans 5:12) Therefore as by the offence of one judgment came upon all men to condemnation; even so by the righteousness of one the free gift came upon all men unto justification of life. For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous. (Romans 5:18-19)
- B. Christ draws people back their original purpose. And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me. (John 12:32)
- C. No tragic flaw in people can prevent the restoration of the Savior. And by him all that believe are justified from all things, from which ye could not be justified by the law of Moses. (Acts 13:39)
- D. The day is coming when the shadows of things which were, but are not now, will yet be what they were intended to be from the first. Moreover the law entered, that the offence might abound. But where sin abounded, grace did much more abound: That as sin hath reigned unto death, even so might grace reign through righteousness unto eternal life by Jesus Christ our Lord. (Romans 5:20-21)

III. The Image Will Be Restored

- A. The insight which the Bible brings to life is an advance on the perfect restoration which is coming. We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts: (2 Peter 1:19)
- B. As the Scriptures prevail in a believer, life begins a steady progression toward God. But the path of the just is as the shining light, that shineth more and more unto the perfect day. (Proverbs 4:18)
- C. What is now done in the dark will begin to appear in public and then prevail everywhere. For as the lightning cometh out of the east, and shineth even unto the west; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. (Matthew 24:27)
- D. Though believers stand in a dark hall, they see through the door into a brilliant eternity. What I tell you in darkness, that speak ye in light: and what ye hear in the ear, that preach ye upon the housetops. And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell. Are not two sparrows sold for a farthing? and one of them shall not fall on the ground without your Father. But the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Fear ye not therefore, ye are of more value than many sparrows. Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven. (Matthew 10:27-32)
- E. Memory and hope, fear and expectation, come together in the gospel message. And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea. And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God. And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away. And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. And he said unto me, Write: for these words are true and faithful. And he said unto me, It is done. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life freely. He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son. But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death. (Revelation 21:1-8)
- F. It only gets better. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the

LORD for ever. (Psalm 23:6)